



Report subject	Pride in Place Programme – role of the Council as Accountable Body
Meeting date	2 September 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	Boscombe West, Hamworthy West & Turlin Moor and West Howe neighbourhoods in BCP have been awarded Pride in Place Programme (PiPP) funding by MHCLG. Each “neighbourhood” has been allocated up to £20 million over the next ten years, for communities to lead on developing and delivering on the things that most matter to them. Based on the acknowledged concept that communities are best placed to identify solutions to the things that matter to them, it places place shaping, democracy and control right back in the heart of these communities through the development of a investment plan to make real change happen. BCP Council’s role is to be the Accountable Body for the funding and to support the development of neighbourhood boards with the local MP, to drive the programme forward.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approves and recommends to Council: 1. That Council agrees that BCP Council will accept the full £60m grant over the next 10 year as Accountable Body for the Pride in Place Programme (Hamworthy West, Turlin Moor Boscombe West and West Howe) and all of related grant conditions. 2. Delegates authority to the Corporate Director for Wellbeing to sign all associated funding agreements where necessary in consultation with relevant officers, including the S151 Officer (Chief Finance Officer) and the Monitoring Officer, including associated funding claims. 3. Accepts that the Pride in Place funding is split as 37% revenue funding and 63% capital funding which is ringfenced for Price in Place interventions as designed and directed by the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Boards, to use funding in accordance with government guidelines and eligible activities. 4. Delegates authority to the Corporate Director and relevant Service Directors, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to undertake the necessary

	processes for selection of the Independent Chair and members of the Neighbourhood Board working in close collaboration with the relevant local MP. 5. Approves that the Service Directors will act as strategic leads for the respective neighbourhood boards and act as the Council representative for all matters related to the Pride in Place programme. 6. Delegates authority to the Service Directors, working in consultation with the MP and the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board to : a. Finalise the boundaries and governance arrangements for the relevant place boards b. Ensure appropriate local oversight, community involvement and decision-making structures are established in line with Pride and Place requirements and timescales. 7. Delegates authority to the newly appointed Board, once constituted, to develop the Pride in Place Investment Plan by February 2027 on behalf of BCP Council and to include community engagement, public consultation and input from Council services to ensure the plan is robust, deliverable and meets the submission requirements set by Government. 8. Delegates authority to the Corporate Director to accept the funding allocation, distribute the capacity funding to support the programme requirements and capital funding to the Neighbourhood Boards to allocate to Investment priorities, in consultation with the relevant statutory officers.
Reason for recommendations	This is a government-led initiative whereby funding is allocated based on a methodology applied by the Ministry of Housing and Communities and Local Government. The direction from Government is that as accountable body, the Council is responsible for ensuring that public funding is managed properly, transparently and in accordance with legal and financial requirements.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Sandra Moore, Portfolio Holder for Communities
Corporate Director	Laura Ambler, Corporate Director for Wellbeing
Report Authors	Amena Matin, Director Investment and Development
Wards	Boscombe West, Hamworthy West, West Howe
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. BCP Council has been awarded £60m across 3 places through the Pride in Place programme, providing access to up to £20 million per neighbourhood over 10 years to support a resident-led programme of investment. This report provides an overview of the funding awarded, the role of BCP Council as the accountable body, and the proposed approach to establishing the Pride in Place Neighbourhood Boards and Investment Plan.
2. The Pride in Place Programme is a national programme led by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). It is designed to support long-term, resident-led investment in selected communities, with a focus on strengthening local pride, improving neighbourhood conditions and empowering local people to shape priorities for their area.
3. The first phase of the programme built on the previous Long-Term Plan for Towns approach and provided funding to 75 towns across the UK. The second phase changed the focus of the programme from larger town-based areas to smaller neighbourhood geographies, with places in England selected using Middle Layer Super Output Areas as the default geography.
4. In March 2026, government confirmed a further expansion of Phase 2, including Boscombe West, Hamworthy West (Turlin Moor) and West Howe. This identifies the three wards within the neighbourhood-based phase of the programme, rather than the earlier town-based model, and provides access to up to £20 million over 10 years to support a locally developed programme of investment.
5. The government's selection methodology for the Phase 2 expansion focused on identifying neighbourhoods with high levels of need. In England, this was based on three headline data sources:
 - a) **Index of Multiple Deprivation:** the government's official measure of relative deprivation in England, bringing together factors including income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services, and living environment.
 - b) **Community Needs Index:** a measure designed to identify places where social infrastructure and community capacity may be weaker, including issues such as access to services, community assets, participation and civic strength.
 - c) **Community Life Survey:** a national survey used to understand community cohesion, belonging, volunteering, loneliness and civic participation. For the Phase 2 expansion, this was used as a community cohesion filter alongside the measures of deprivation and community need.
6. BCP Council has received £405k of capacity funding (£135k per place) from MHCLG to support the establishment of the programme ahead of the submission of the Pride in Place Plan. This funding is intended to support activity such as Board establishment, early community engagement, development of the local evidence base, programme management and preparation of the Plan.
7. Following submission and approval of the Pride in Place Plan, the programme is expected to move into delivery funding, with up to £2 million available each year over the

- 10-year programme. The funding profile for Phase 2 areas is split between capital and revenue funding, with 63% allocated as capital and 37% allocated as revenue.
8. The funding will be paid to BCP Council in its role as accountable body, with local priorities and investment activity to be shaped through the three Pride in Place Neighbourhood Boards and wider community engagement. The Council will support this process and ensure that funding is managed in line with relevant legal, financial and governance requirements.
 9. The national programme is framed around three overarching aims. These aims are reflected in the breadth of interventions available through the programme:
 - a) **Stronger communities**, including activity that supports community cohesion, volunteering, social action, local events, community leadership, neighbourhood safety, health and wellbeing, and stronger relationships between residents and local organisations.
 - b) **Thriving places**, including investment in public realm, parks and green spaces, local centres, community buildings, youth facilities, heritage, arts and culture, active travel, local services and other physical improvements to the neighbourhood.
 - c) **Taking back control**, including activity that gives residents a greater role in shaping local priorities, supports community-led decision making, improves access to opportunity, and helps local people influence the future of their area.
 10. Despite these three aims, the prospectus and supporting guidance make clear that the programme is intended to give Neighbourhood Boards flexibility to respond to local evidence and resident priorities.
 11. Indicative interventions include public realm and high street improvements, parks and community gardens, refurbishment of community and youth facilities, local arts and heritage activity, support for economically inactive residents, tailored skills provision, community cohesion activity, participatory engagement, social action, community-level health provision, active travel, crime prevention and school-based programmes for children and young people.
 12. Examples from other Pride in Place areas show the breadth of activity that Neighbourhood Boards may consider, depending on local evidence and resident priorities includes wellbeing activities, parks and playgrounds, seafront, town centre youth activity, skills and community facilities. The Pride and Place Investment Plan demonstrate how environmental, community and economic priorities can be brought together within a single place-based plan

Role of Council as Accountable Body

13. The Pride in Place Programme provides long-term funding and significant local flexibility and encourages decisions to be taken closest to communities. The Accountable Body's role is to provide the governance and assurance needed to release funding, not to determine which community priorities should be supported.
14. Funding decisions should reflect the priorities agreed by the community partnership and budgets will be delegated through the Investment Plan to neighbourhood boards to allocate with the expectation from Government that decisions should not be routinely referred to Cabinet or equivalent committees.
15. A place based steering group involving relevant BCP Council officers alongside representatives from the local Member of Parliament's office, has been established to support the early establishment of the programme. The group is focused on Chair recruitment, Board membership, governance arrangements, communications and engagement.
16. As the programme develops, the Council and MP's office will continue to meet to support the local leadership of the Board and enable strategic alignment to maximise on funding opportunities.

17. Recruitment for the independent Chair has commenced ahead of this report being presented to Cabinet, to support the Board being in place by 28 August 2026. Recruitment to the Chair, Vice Chair and Board member roles will follow a clear and accessible process, supported by the Council and informed by learning from other Pride in Place areas. The Chair cannot be an elected representative and is appointed through a process informed by discussion with the local Member of Parliament.

18. In July the following Chairs were appointed :

Place	Chair	Vice Chair (if applicable)

19. Draft governance documents have been prepared to support the establishment of the Board, including proposed Terms of Reference, declarations of interest arrangements, decision-making processes and secretariat support. These will be refined with the Chair and Board following appointment, before being formally agreed.

- a) The Terms of Reference will set out the Board's role, composition and terms of office, alongside arrangements for rotation and succession. They will reflect the working principles set out above and establish expected behaviours, inclusive participation, transparency and the management of conflicts of interest.
- b) They will also provide the framework for preparing the Pride in Place Plan, setting out how resident insight, local evidence and appropriate financial, legal and delivery assurance will inform Board decisions.
- c) The proposed model places the Pride in Place Board as the lead decision-making body, with BCP Council acting as accountable body. Task and Finish Groups will help progress specific priorities. Board development community capacity, performance monitoring and impact evaluation will be built into the programme as it develops.

20. The national guidance allows Phase 2 Neighbourhood Boards to make representations to alter the default geography, within the parameters set by government. The Council will work with the Chair, Board, local Member of Parliament, ward councillors and residents to consider the most appropriate geography for the programme. This will need to be confirmed alongside Chair and Board membership by 28 August 2026.

21. Government guidance is clear that an agreed geography must be established

for the programme. The Board will therefore need to understand the neighbourhood as a lived place, while still ensuring that investment remains focused on the residents and communities the programme is intended to support.

Options Appraisal

22. The Council has received the initial funding for 2026/2027 and this report seeks to accept the funding over the 10 year period up to £20m for each place. As the investment plan is developed, options will be considered and appraised on an ongoing basis.

Summary of financial implications

23. Table 1 below shows the funding profile over the 10 years. Funding post financial year 2028/29 will be reviewed at the next Spending Review. The funding split is profiled unevenly over the years but totals 63% capital 37% revenue at the end of the programme.

Table 1: Phase 2 funding profile over 10 years

Grant type (£ms)	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	30/31	31/32	32/33	33/34	34/35	35/36	Total
Capital funding	0	0.12	0.67	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12.43
Revenue funding	0.15	0.27	0.69	0.69	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	7.17
Total	0.15	0.39	1.36	2.15	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	19.6

Revenue funding %	69%	51%	32%	35%	35%	35%	35%	35%	35%	35%	35%	37%
Capital funding %	31%	49%	68%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	63%

24. The Council has been allocated £1.2m in April 2026 of which £0.8m was received at the start of the financial year as set out in table 2 below. Revenue funding is paid out across two tranches in Year 1 (2026/27) of the programme – 50% was paid at the start of the financial year, and the remaining 50% on approval of the Chair, Board membership, and (if applicable) boundary change. The total allocation per community neighbourhood in 2026/27 is £0.39m corresponding to the 26/27 funding profile in table 1 above.

Table 2: 2026/27 allocation

2026/27	Paid start of year	50% Paid start of year	50% Paid after approval of chair, board	rounded in £ms
	Capital	Revenue	Total grant paid	Total 2026/27 allocation
Boscombe West	£117,604	£135,000	£252,604	£0.39
Hamworthy West	£117,604	£135,000	£252,604	£0.39
West Howe	£117,604	£135,000	£252,604	£0.39
Total	£352,812	£405,000	£757,812	

25. The purpose of this funding is to support the establishment of the Board, community engagement and the drafting of a development of the Investment Plan up to Feb 2027. The capital funding is for projects which can start or deliver as quick wins for the Pride in Place programme.

26. This grant funding should be used to support:
- establishing and running the Neighbourhood Board, including any process
 - to establish the board as a charity, community interest company, or other bottom-up organisational model, to sustain long-term investment
 - performing high quality community engagement, which could include passporting money directly to voluntary and community sector groups to assist with engagement, to inform the Pride in Place Plan
 - developing Pride in Place Plan
 - securing advice and expertise for Neighbourhood Boards for the technical elements of plan development and delivery, noting that support is available from the department and the guidance to curb public sector use of consultants
 - capital and infrastructure interventions to hit the ground running, for example, by kickstarting the planning application process, securing architectural plans and obtaining legal advice, or any other activity that local authorities and Boards consider will progress their plan
 - Capital funding must be used solely for capital expenditure, in accordance with the applicable local government capital finance legislation and proper accounting practices in the relevant UK jurisdiction.
27. Accountable bodies should ensure that spending is made in line with the published [Pride in Place Programme prospectus](#) and programme guidance.

Summary of legal implications

28. The grant determination letter sets out the funding conditions and role of the Accountable Body,

Summary of human resources implications

29. Where possible the programme will be supported by existing resources in Communities with additional resource provided by Corporate PMO team.
30. Cllr Sandra Moore is the Cabinet Member for the Pride in Place. Laura Ambler, Executive Director for Wellbeing, is the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the Programmes. Amena Matin, Director of Investment & Development, is the Strategic Lead for the Boscombe West PIP programme and Rob Carroll is the Strategic Lead for the Hamworthy West & Turlin Moor and West Howe PIP programmes.
31. All three areas benefit from dedicated Community Development Workers who are already embedded in the local communities and are supporting the PIP programmes as part of their role. It has been agreed with the MPs that a part time Programme Manager is appointed to support all three areas for an initial six months, funded from the capacity funding we have received. This can then be reviewed with the Chair and Neighbourhood Board to see if further support is required.

Summary of sustainability impact

32. There are no sustainability impact of this decision. As the Investment Plan comes together this will set out projects and the sustainability of these will need to be carefully considered.

Summary of public health implications

33. There are huge health benefits for the investment which will be felt in the locations and address reduce health inequalities locally.

Summary of equality implications**Summary of risk assessment**

34. As Accountable Body the priority risk is to ensure all controls and processes are put in place to meet key milestones and government requirements.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Pride in Place Grant determination letter